

## The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

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## COSMIC FINDINGS

Last summer, five strings of 35 inch sounding balloons, five in each string, were sent up periodically from San Antonio, Texas by Dr. Robert Andrews Millikan of California Institute of Technology. The strings rose to a height of 92,000 feet (about  $17\frac{1}{2}$  miles). When the first balloon in the string burst, due to internal pressure, the rate of ascent was decreased and when the second balloon burst the remaining ones hovered practically stationary until a clockwork device released a scarlet parachute, carrying an automatic electroscope which had been recording cosmic ray intensity all the while. Four of five of the dropped electroscopes containing the recorded data were recovered.

With this data, Dr. Millikan reports that cosmic ray intensity increases to a maximum at 66,000 feet and then falls off 22 per cent on the way up to 92,000 feet, the maximum height reached. This contradicts the generally accepted finding of Erich Regener of Stuttgart who, from balloons attaining as high as 100,000 feet, reported increasing cosmic ray bombardment up to 85,000 feet and a fairly constant intensity above that altitude.

—*Time.*

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Energy cannot be destroyed. That is a statement of modern science which is causing much alarm among scientists. They are wondering what happens to the energy contained in a compressed spring destroyed in acid.

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When you munch your ear of corn during the corn season, stop and consider the amount of water given off by each kernel during its growth. It is known that an acre of good corn releases 3,000 tons of water. Well, how about one little kernel? (You figure it out.)